6 (Pages 21 to 24)

21 23 have been involved in. So at least -- there may 1 Q I guess the question was tell me as best 2 have been other others, but I'm not aware of it. you can recall what you did -- what time was this 3 Q Now, tell me a little about what type of 3 trip during September 16th, 2001? 4 practice do you have. What is your area of 4 A It was mid -5 expertise, and does any of it relate to chartering MR. CHAKRABARTY: Just a clarification as 6 of vessels? 6 to time, talking time of year, time of day? 7 Actually, it -- not of this type, but a 7 MR. SKEEN: Time of day. I'm trying to 8 lot of the work we do is in the area of 8 get --9 transportation. 9 A It was mid morning. I think it was called 10 Q Right. 10 for 10:00 or so. I don't recall the precise time. 11 A We -- and a lot of -- the firm generally 11 But I drove out to the location, which was someplace 12 represents people in the maritime business, in the 12 in Annapolis. I don't recall the -- we had 13 logistics business, in some of the aviation business 13 directions where it was. And everybody got and kind of related businesses, as well as some together, and when we were all there -- we weren't 15 other industries. Most of my time is spent dealing 15 sure entirely who was going to show up, one never is 16 with clients in the, in the maritime area in a kind on these outings -- and we boarded the IMAGINE, and of a general sense. So that might include people in 17 17 they sailed away from the dock. And we were going the shipping business, freight shipping, dredging or on a, kind of a round trip I guess it is to the Bay 18 19 towage or offshore activities. 19 Bridge I think it was, to wherever it was. It was, 20 Q Now, when you say that, do you mean in the 20 let's say a couple of hours out, a couple of hours 21 context of regulatory law or some other type of law? 21 back --22 A It's regulatory, antitrust, contractual 22 Q Okay. 22 24 and commercial issues, and some transactional and 1 A -- to terminate, I guess 2:00, 3:00, 2 financing work. 2 something like that. 3 Q And does that involve you in courtroom 3 And the idea was that we would have some 4 work or a trial practice at all? 4 time together. There would be food and refreshments 5 A No, not really. Very, very rarely. 5 and spend some time together in a relaxed 6 Q Are you what is referred to as a environment, which it was. And we were fortunate to 7 transactional lawyer more so or --7 have the nice weather. I recall it was kind of a 8 A Yeah, I think - I mean in terms of sunny day and not too blistering hot. It was 9 whether it's the regulatory work or the, I'll call reasonably warm, but not oppressive and really -- we it the more commercial, corporate-type work. It 10 kind of milled around the boat as it was sailing 11 really doesn't require me to be in a courtroom or --11 along. 12 it's not a litigation - you know, we do litigation 12 There were a number of people who were in 13 occasionally, but I'm really infrequently involved 13 the, the cockpit area of the boat that were with, 14 in litigation matters. 14 where the Captain was, and I was, I did not actually 15 Q Okay. Tell me as best you can recall what 15 go into the cockpit as I recall. I was sitting on 16 happened on the day that this took place, September 16 the roof of the galley with a number of other 17 of 2001. 17 people, just kind of enjoying the day and talking. 18 MR. CHAKRABARTY: Sorry, before we go on, 18 And at some point after we left the pier, they 19 I do have a copy -- can we get copies made of this? 19 announced that there was food and refreshments 20 MR. SKEEN: Sure. 20 available downstairs, and people went down and took (Interruption.) 21 21 whatever they wanted as they, as they chose to do BY MR. SKEEN:

22

so. At -- I -- I think it was after we were

7 (Pages 25 to 28)

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returning from the Bridge, on our way back, it was,

2 you know, a little more than halfway through the

3 trip because we still had a bit of sailing until we

4 got back, I went down into the galley to get

5 something to eat, something to drink, and was down

there. And I may have, as I recall I may have used

7 the facilities down there and -- the sanitary

8 facilities and then turned --

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MR. BOUSE: The head.

THE WITNESS: The head, right. I should

11 use the official maritime parlance. Thank you.

A And got a sandwich and something to drink and came up the steps and kind of came above the

14 deck. And my recollection was that I was either

15 just before or just after getting on the deck, but I

16 think it may have been just after I had both feet on

17 the deck and I was kind of facing towards my right,

18 which was facing toward the rear, towards the rear

19 of the vessel, there was a loud explosion-type sound

20 off to my left. And that's basically the incident

21 that we're talking about here.

Q Okay. Do you recall when you arrived at

something like that.

2 Q And you say you mainly sat on top of the

3 galley?

4 A I got, you know, something to eat, talked,

5 I think, you know, just socialized, yeah. You mean

6 where -- it's not a huge boat, and we had fifteen or

7 twenty people aboard, plus the crew, so you couldn't

8 really run around too much. And it was basically

9 just the deck and the galley that you could move

10 about in. And so that's really, the whole point was

11 to look at the Bay and enjoy the, the weather and

12 socialize.

13 Q Was there anybody on a microphone pointing

14 out --

18

15 A No.

16 Q -- things of interest during the trip or

17 anything like that?

A I -- there -- if there was a microphone

19 used, I don't recall it.

20 Q Okay. I'm going to show you a list that's

21 been provided by your counsel entitled Persons

22 Aboard IMAGINE September 16, 2001. Are you familiar

26

the location to embark on the trip, was there any

2 discussion, anybody in charge of the boat say

3 anything to the crew prior to boarding?

A My recollection was that the fellow who

5 was the Captain welcomed us. I think he said

something about life preservers, but that's -- it

7 was a fairly short -- and I could be wrong on that,

8 but I seem to think somebody said something about

9 life preservers, where they were stowed or something

10 like that, and talked about the, you know, where

11 we'd be going and welcomed everybody on board.

12 That's about as much as I recall.

Q How many crew members do you recall

14 seeing?

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A I recall that there were -- I can't say

16 for sure if there were two or three, but I recall

17 two young women who were crew members, plus the

18 Captain. There may have been a third, I just don't

19 recall for sure.

20 Q Okay. On the trip out to the Bridge, you

21 think that was about a couple of hours trip?

A I guess an hour and a half, two hours,

1 with that list? Have you seen that before?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Now, can we just go quickly down this list

and if you can identify for me in some general way

5 who these individuals are.

6 A Okay. Shall I proceed?

O Yes.

7

8 A Okay. Jeff - I'll just go in the order

9 that they're here, which is not any particular

10 order. Jeff Pike is a partner in the firm. Earl

11 Comstock is a partner in the firm. Ann Comstock is

12 his wife she's not employed by the firm.

13 Q Okay.

14 A John Butler is a partner in the firm. His

15 wife Amanda was there, but she's not employed by the

6 firm. Mason Butler is their infant, their baby.

17 Lisa Henshaw is the office manager of Sher and

18 Blackwell. Brian Henshaw and Joe Henshaw are her

19 teenage sons. Paulie Richardson is the fellow who

20 handles our back office, copying and storeroom,

21 paper supplies, things like that. Nina Scott, I

22 believe was his girlfriend. Heather Spring is an

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29

associate with the firm. Chris Diana is her

- 2 boyfriend, not an employee of the firm. Mark Atwood
- 3 is a partner in the firm. Ginny Atwood and
- 4 Christopher Atwood are Mark's children. Donald
- 5 Kassilke is an associate in the firm, and Deborah
- 6 Kassilke is his wife who is not an employee of the
- 7 firm.
- 8 Q Okay. Now, did any of these individuals
- 9 participate, or was anyone invited to participate --
- 10 A You know --
- 11 Q I'm sorry.
- 12 A I would just add that I think there's one
- 13 name missing on this list -
- 14 Q Okay.
- 15 A and that would be Marc Fink who was the
- 16 fellow I mentioned who was managing partner. And
- 17 I -- my recollection is Mark came by himself --
- 18 Q All right.
- 19 A as did I.
- 20 Q Were you or anyone in this group invited
- 21 to participate in any way with the operation of the
- 22 sailboat?

1

1 Q -- I'm going to try to have you mark on

2 here the areas where --

MR. CHAKRABARTY: Just having seen it for the first time, if we could just have a few seconds

5 to --

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MR. SKEEN: Absolutely. Take your time.

A I guess I don't know what some of these things are. Well, on some of the diagrams on this, on the vessel.

MR. CHAKRABARTY: Would you like a fewminutes? You want to just talk about it outside,

12 then we can go back on the record --

13 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

14 BY MR. SKEEN:

Q Well, let me do this.

16 MR. CHAKRABARTY: Okay.

17 Q Let me show you some photographs that you

18 have provided to us, and let's identify them as --

19 well, maybe that will be of some assistance to you.

20 These are pictures that were provided by your

21 attorney in discovery. Can you identify -- I mean

22 first of all, have you seen those pictures before?

30

A My recollection was that the Captain

- allowed some of the guests on board to, you know,
- 3 hold the steering wheel of the vessel. I think some
- 4 of the kids may have done it also, may have held the
- 5 steering wheel of the vessel. I'm not sure about
- 6 that, but I seem to think it was part of the, you
- 7 know, experience that, for the kids, would have been
- 8 a fun part of the trip for them. But I believe
- 9 other than his turning over the steering wheel to
- 10 several people -- and my recollection was Jeff Pike
- 11 and Earl Comstock may have done it, maybe a couple
- 12 of the kids, perhaps Lisa's children and maybe Mark,
- 13 one of, one of Mark Atwood's kids may have gone
- 14 forward during the course of the voyage. There may
- 15 have been others, but I don't recall.
- 16 Q I'm going to show you what has been
- 17 provided by Mr. Bouse's client, which is, represents
- 18 a, to be some plans of the vessel that you were on.
- 19 Take a minute to orient yourself, and what I'm going
- 20 to try to do --

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- 21 MR. BOUSE: We just got these.
 - MR. CHAKRABARTY: I was -- I haven't --

- 1 A I've not seen -- I've seen the photos,
- 2 yes.

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Q The photos, of course.

MR. SKEEN: Do you have the originals of

5 these?

6 MR. CHAKRABARTY: I do, but were you going

7 to introduce them as exhibits or just use them?

8 MR. SKEEN: No, number one so I can see

9 them, and number two, so the witness can --

MR. BOUSE: While we're on the record,

11 just let me request that you make copies of those,

12 not photostatic copies, at our expense, I'm not

13 asking you to pay for them, if you could have

14 somebody send them over to the copy people and just

15 make a copy of them.

MR. CHAKRABARTY: Sure.

MR. SKEEN: Are these actual photos of the

18 trip --

16

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MR. CHAKRABARTY: Correct.

20 MR. SKEEN: -- we're looking at?

21 THE WITNESS: Yes.

22 MR. SKEEN: So it was a nice day.

33 35 1 THE WITNESS: We were lucky in that taken by --2 respect. 2 A These, these are - I - these are not of 3 MR. CHAKRABARTY: Referring to these 3 the voyage. photos, I apologize --4 MR. CHAKRABARTY: Correct. 5 MR. SKEEN: We want copies of both of 5 These are after the fact. I don't know 6 them. That would be great. 6 who --7 MR. CHAKRABARTY: You didn't get copies of 7 MR. CHAKRABARTY: Just for the record, 8 the others ones? 8 he's referring to the pictures you're holding in 9 MR. BOUSE: No, we did not get copies of 9 your hand as opposed to these. 10 those. 10 Q I'm referring to --11 MR. CHAKRABARTY: Okay. Well --11 A You're referring to these picture? 12 MR. SKEEN: All right. I'm going to show 12 MR. CHAKRABARTY: These pictures were these photos to the witness and, because I would 13 13 taken after the fact. 14 prefer that he go on his own recollection as opposed 14 A I have no idea. to discussions with counsel. 15 15 MR. SKEEN: Okay. Well, these were done 16 BY MR. SKEEN: 16 by your investigator or somebody? 17 O But if these would be of assistance to you 17 MR. CHAKRABARTY: Somebody at the firm, in understanding this diagram, I'd put six photos in 18 18 yes. 19 19 MR. SKEEN: Let me mark just the front of you --20 20 photocopies of them so we'll know what we're talking A Let me tell you the nature of my question. 21 21 It's just a technical point since I have no about as the next exhibit number, the six pictures 22 of the boat without the people on it. These were experience with these types of things. This is the 34 36 1 side view, the top is the side view of the vessel? 1 not taken the day of event. 2 Q Right. 2 (Exhibit No. 2 was marked for 3 A These two bottom diagrams, is one a 3 identification and was retained by Mr. Skeen.) diagram of -- the bottom one a diagram of the below 4 BY MR. SKEEN: 5 deck and the one above it a diagram of the above 5 Q Now, when I originally asked the question, 6 it was before I was given these pictures, so my 6 deck; is that what this is? 7 Q That's what I would believe. 7 purpose in giving you the diagram was for you to 8 8 MR. BOUSE: Yes. designate on it where everyone was sitting and 9 A So the -- again, I'm just -- I'm not sure 9 where, where all your group were located during the 10 course of the trip. And since you've given me these 10 what some of these things mean, what some of the little squares and boxes on here mean, but what pictures that, they probably describe it a little 11 11 12 would you like me to do with this? 12 better. But just so we're clear, can you draw on 13 Q I just want you to take a moment, look at, 13 this diagram that I've given you the areas of the boat, and directing your attention to the deck look at these pictures --14 14 15 A Yeah. 15 level, the second one up --O -- of the vessel itself. First of all, 16 Yeah. 16 A -- the areas of the boat where your group 17 those six pictures of the vessel, did you take those 17 was, you know, located? 18 pictures or did someone take them at your request? 18 19 A Yeah. Of course people moved around 19 A No, I didn't take them, nor did I request during the voyage -they be taken. I have -- I'm not sure who took 20 20 them, maybe Lisa, or --21 O Okay. 21 22 A -- so -- I don't think anybody, to my 22 MR. CHAKRABARTY: I believe they were

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knowledge nobody was in one place the whole time,
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- 2 but the -- there were people along here
- 3 (indicating). I'm pointing to the, I guess it's the
- 4 starboard, right starboard side of the boat -
- 5 Q Right.

6

- A along on the along the top, the
- 7 roof of the, above the galley I guess is what you
- 8 would call it.
- 9 Q Right.
- 10 A It's kind of a relatively flat area on the
- 11 side there. And similarly on the other side of the,
- 12 on the, let's say the left side of the boat when
- 13 you're facing forward, right and left side. So
- 14 people would have kind of seated themselves on that
- 15 galley roof. And it was convenient because you
- 16 could just put your food down. There were really no
- 17 tables or anything to put your food down.
- 18 Q Okay.
- 19 A And then there were people that were
- 20 seated in what I'll call the rear of the vessel,
- 21 this cockpit area between the galley and the wheel,
- 22 the steering wheel. People were kind of just -

A Yeah. I would -- again, I'm not sure what -- if these are -- are these the steps coming up and is this the entrance to the --

MR. CHAKRABARTY: Yeah, I mean --

5 THE WITNESS: I'm just not sure what these 6 lines mean.

7 MR. CHAKRABARTY: If you're not sure --

8 Q Well --

9 A I can tell you where I was, but what I 10 don't know is if that's what this is. It looks 11 like --

- Q May I see them again? Maybe --
- 13 A If this is the opening --
- 14 Q I believe it is, yeah.
 - MR. CHAKRABARTY: Well --
- 16 Q In other words, here is --
- 17 A Just --
 - Q Look at that picture. Is that a view that
- 19 will assist you in locating where you were?
- A Yeah. Like I said, I know exactly where I
- 21 was. My only question is how that correlates to
- 22 what this chart is showing.

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- there was a little, some free area to walk around in
- 2 there, and people were seated or standing or kind of
- milling around in that area.
- 4 I recall -- I don't recall anybody --
- 5 there may have been some people that went forward of
- the galley roof area as it's shown on this design,
- 7 but my recollection was that there really was nobody
- 8 in the -- there were -- other than crew members. I
- 9 mean there may have been a couple of people that
- 10 went up there, but basically everybody was behind,
- 11 you know, from -- they did not really go in front of
 - 2 the roof of the galley to the front of the boat.
- 13 Q Okay. Were they told not to do that?
- 14 A No. I just think it was an awk -- they
- 15 may have been, I don't recall. But it was an
- 16 awkward area. It wasn't with the vessel moving,
- 17 I don't think it was a place people felt secure.
- 18 Q Okay. Now, directing your attention to
- 19 the time when you heard this, you were coming up out
- 20 of the galley and you heard this bang or whatever,
- 21 can you mark on that chart with a pen where you were
- 22 at the time that you heard this report or noise?

Like I said, I had just come out of this entrance, which assuming this is the, the entryway --

- 4 MR. CHAKRABARTY: Before you -- I'm just
- 5 going to note, note an objection as to the fact that
- 6 it's not -- he's not a draftsman, he's not familiar
- 7 with drafting instruments and has already stated for
- 8 the record his inability to identify clearly on this
- 9 depiction of the ship. I mean I'll let him make
- 10 notations but I just note that for the record.
 - MR. SKEEN: Okay.
- 12 A So assuming this square in the middle is a
- 13 the entryway above the roof of the galley, I would
- 14 have just come out and it would have been somewhere
- 15 in this area right here, I would guess (indicating).
- 16 Well, it would have been -- I would have to say
- 17 somewhere in front because I'd just come up --
- 18 whether it was on the right side or the left side of
- 19 the, where the stairs were, it would be someplace
- 20 right in front of there and kind of with an
- 21 orientation this way. My recollection was it was
- 22 kind of shoulder to the side like that when I came

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11 (Pages 41 to 44)

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up, and that's where I was, right about here -

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A -- I would guess, somewhere in there.

O Why don't you just draw an arrow to that and put JL.

A I'm going to put it right here because it's right at the top of the steps. JL, okay. I think I've just messed up your chart.

9 Q That's okay. We have some more. Where 10 was the -- well, first of all, I guess you later 11 found out that, what was the object that made the

12 noise that you heard?

> A I don't know what it was to tell you the truth, but it was in the shape, I think it was in

15 the shape of a little cannon. And the Answers

16 called it a signal device. I don't know if it's

17 like a starter's gun or what it is, or some sort of 18 a safety-related instrument, but it was, it was over

19 here someplace in this area over here. I can't say

20 for sure because frankly, I wasn't aware of it

21 beforehand. I wasn't aware of the device before. I

had not seen it before. I don't think it was there

(indicating).

2 Q Okay. Can you draw a circle?

A Somewhere in this area here.

4 Q And put an arrow to that circle, and let's

see, what are we going to call it? Cannon or

6 whatever, whatever you want to call it.

A (Complying.)

Q Okay. Now, to the best of your

recollection, where was the nearest person to you at

10 the time you heard this bang?

11 A I believe that - I don't have a specific

12 recollection of that to be frank, so there were -

13 there were people in front of me as I was exiting

14 the galley area.

O So that would be --

A So I don't know. I don't know who else

17 was around to my left or behind me or sitting on the

18 roof of the galley. There were some people in the

19 cockpit area but I don't recall who or specifically

20 where they were located. And then who else may have

21 been seated where, I can't say for sure. I really

wasn't focused on that at all.

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before, to tell you the truth, because I walked past

2 there. But it was over here on the, as I'm face -

3 as I'm facing the rear of the vessel, it would be on

4 mv left side.

5 Q Okay. All right. On the starboard side 6 would you draw a circle in the general area where 7 you observed the device?

8 MR. CHAKRABARTY: Again, I'd just object 9 for the record. I think he said that he had not

10 seen it previous to --

11 MR. SKEEN: I'm asking when he first 12

noticed it.

13 Q Which was your testimony is you didn't 14 notice it until after you heard the bang?

15 A (Nods head.)

16 Q My question --

17 A Right.

20

Q -- would you draw a circle in the area 18

19 where you first noticed the device.

A I believe there was a little -- I was a

21 little disrupted at that point because of the impact

22 of it, that it was somewhere in this area here Q Now, how long would you estimate you were

2 down below before you came back out and heard the

3 bang?

4 A I would guess it may have been five or ten

5 minutes, something of that order. What I really 6

don't recall specifically is if there was anybody 7 else down there or not, if I was speaking to anybody

8 or not. But I would guess five or ten minutes, but

9 I don't have a really precise recollection of that. 10

Q When you were down there before you came 11 up and heard the bang was there any crew person down

12 below or any catering employee or anybody --

13 A Again, there may have been, I just don't

14 recall. I can't be sure. I know that there were

15 crew, the crew people were the catering people, I 16 think they were really one in the same if I'm not

17 mistaken. But I know during the course of the

18 voyage they were up and down, so it's possible, but

19 I just don't recall.

20 Q Now, after you heard the bang, did you lose your hearing right at that point in time? 21

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A Yes, the -- what happened was, I mean it

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was, it was kind of a shock when I heard this

- 2 loud -- as one might expect when you hear a very
- 3 loud sound that you're not anticipating. And I
- 4 immediately heard a -- I hurt. It was a pain caused
- by kind of a concussion-type pain, and my hearing
- was muffled and there was like a sound, a ringing in
- my ear that all started really at, just with the
- 8 explosion.
- 9 Q And did you say anything to anyone about this concussion-type pain that you experienced?
- 11 A You mean when it happened?
- 12 O Yeah.
- 13 A Yeah. My recollection is that I spoke to
- 14 Lisa Henshaw and said that, you know, I can't hear,
- 15 or my -- I'm hearing ringing in my ears from that
- 16 loud blast. It would have been -- I'm not sure if
- 17 she was standing in front of me, but it would have
- 18 been shortly after it occurred.
- 19 Q Was it more your left ear than your right
- ear or were they both the same? 20
- 21 A The right ear was ringing also and I had
- 22 like a muffled sound. It was like somebody had

- 1 Q Did you say anything to any member of the
- crew concerning what had happened? 3
 - A Not that I recall.
 - Q You didn't talk to the Captain about it at
- 5 any time that day?
 - A No, no, I didn't. It didn't occur to me
 - that I should.
- 8 Q Why didn't it occur to you that you
- 9 should?
- 10 A Well, I had mentioned it to Lisa who was
- 11 the person who organized the thing. And frankly, I
- wasn't -- it didn't occur to me that it was anything
- 13 more than I was having some ringing in my ears and
- 14 muffled and, you know, it would go away in a couple 15 of hours or whatever. And I just didn't -- it just
- didn't occur to me that it was any big deal. It
- 17 iust didn't occur to me.
- 18 Q Did you at any time hear any of the crew
- 19 members warning people that they were about to shoot
- 20 off this device?
- 21 A No.
 - 22 Q Did any one of your group tell you that

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- stuffed cotton in both my ears. I couldn't hear
- 2 anything. I should say I could hear something but
- 3 it was very, very muffled. So -- I'd never
- experienced anything like that, so I -- but -- it
- was both ears, but clearly more the left ear where I
- 6 was feeling the pain.
- 7 Q Aside from Lisa Henshaw did you say
- 8 anything to anyone else from your group?
- 9 A I'm sure I - I'm sure just in the course
- 10 of sitting in the, on the vessel I'm sure I
- 11 mentioned it possibly to one of Mark -- possibly
- 12 Mark Atwood or Don Kassilke or one of their Don's
- 13 wife. I don't recall. It's possible. I'm sure,
- 14 because I was sitting there feeling very
- 15 uncomfortable because I was trying to have
- 16 conversations but I couldn't really hear entirely
- 17 what people were saying to me. So by way of
- 18 explanation, I was saying, I think I said, I'm
- 19 having some problems. But I don't recall
- 20 specifically -- Lisa I remember because -- but other
- than that, I don't have a specific recollection 21
- 22 other than what I mentioned.

- they had given such warnings while you were down in
- 2 the galley --
 - A No.
- 4 -- after this took place?
- Have you ever talked to any members of
- your group as to whether there was a warning given
- 8 that the device would be used?
 - Yes.
- 10 And who did you talk to about that?
- 11 Lisa.
- 12 Q Okay.
- A Lisa Henshaw and Don Kassilke and Marc 13
- 14 Fink, as I recall.
- 15 Q Okay. And when did those conversations
- take place with Lisa Henshaw? 16
- 17 A It was after, after the accident and also
- recently, just to ask if, what she recalled. 18
- 19 Q And what did you ask her and what did she 20 say to you?
- 21 A I said, did you -- was there a warning
- given? Do you remember the warning that was given,

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and what was it?

2 Q And what was her response?

3 A That there was a warning. There was a,

4 one of the crew members gave a warning and said

5 that, that they were going to shoot off this device 6 and people might want to move away and they might

7 want to cover their ears. I think that was her --

8 Q And how about your conversation with Don

9 Kassilke?

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A He had a vague recollection that there may have been some kind of warning but nothing about

12 covering the ears or anything of that sort.

Q And how about your conversation with Marc

14 Fink on the subject?

A He had no recollection of any warning.

16 Q Now, Lisa Henshaw's recollection was that

17 there was this warning given and to cover your ears

18 before -- sometime during the trip and before the

19 gun was --

20 A No, just immediately before.

Q Just immediately before?

A It was just immediately before. As they

1 Q Let me suggest some analogies, maybe. A

2 firecracker, a cherry bomb? Do you know what a

cherry bomb sounds like?

A A cherry bomb is --

5 Q A form of a firecracker.

A -- heavier form of a firecracker.

Q They didn't have cherry bombs in New

8 Jersey?

9 A Yeah, they did. Is it a larger one, is

10 that the implication of a cherry bomb?

11 O I think it is.

A I think it is, too.

13 Yeah, something -- a very loud -- I guess 14 a very loud version of that. Firecracker wouldn

a very loud version of that. Firecracker wouldn't
 capture it because a firecracker -- it's been a lot

16 of years since I've listened to -- been close to a

17 firecracker, but it was a very, very loud sound and

18 very immediate. And so I would say -- if a

19 firecracker or cherry bomb is a little explosive

20 device, this would have been a much bigger sound

21 than that.

22 Q Than either a firecracker or a cherry

50

1 were about to shoot it off, as -- I don't want to

2 characterize her recollection because I didn't get

3 into any detail. I just really asked what she

4 remembered. But it was only before the -- as I

5 understood what she told me, it was only immediately

6 before the shooting off of this thing.

Q And do you recall her saying where on the
 boat she was when she received that warning or heard

9 that?

10

11

14

15

A I didn't ask her.

Q Did anyone else in your group ever

12 complain about the noise or any of the aftereffects

13 of the bang?

A Not to my knowledge.

O Now, the noise that you heard, how would

16 you describe it, I guess in terms of a sound, the

17 noise that you heard?

18 A I guess -- it's a little difficult for me

19 to describe it because I don't really have any

20 personal experience with firearms and that sort of,

21 or explosives or anything like that, but it sounded

22 like an explosion.

1 bomb?

2

3

4

7

9

10

A Yeah. At least it sounded that way to me.

O How about a backfiring automobile, louder?

A I think louder, much louder than that.

5 Oh, I guess you could have some large trucks that

make some pretty loud sounds but it would be, yes,

louder than that.

8 Q Now, when did you first, relative to after

that day -- I gather you thought it would go away?

A Yes.

11 O And did it go away or become less severe

12 for the remainder of the day?

13 A Well, no. The -- the -- my recollection

14 was that, I think I took a couple of aspirin when I

15 got home, but other than that it -- over the next

16 few days I continued to have a ringing, but it was,

17 it was moderated a little bit. The pain was

18 moderated a little bit, but it was still painful,

19 and the hearing was still a problem. I couldn't

20 hear in my left ear and was having trouble hearing

21 in my right ear. So it continued afterwards, but it

22 was not, certainly it was not as intense as it was

14 (Pages 53 to 56)

55

much

1 right after the accident, but still, still very much 2 there.

Q Did there come a time when you sought some medical attention concerning that?

A Yeah. I really wasn't quite sure what to
make of this thing because as I said, I just assumed
that it would just go away after the initial shock
of it. If it -- after it didn't after a couple of
days I called my internist, general practitioner guy
named Tom Sachs and, maybe three or four days later,
I guess, and --

(Interruption.)

A - and asked him what I thought -- what he thought I should do. And he, he was concerned and he said you should see a hearing specialist, an ENT person, and he suggested I contact Feldman, Oringher, et al, other names in that medical practice.

19 Q Okay. So did he see you at that time or

20 just talk --

12

21

2

8

A No. I spoke to him on the phone.

22 Q Okay. And so did you see the Feldman

1 He said that sometimes that has a positive effect.

2 I got the prednisone anyway. I -- that's basically

3 what he had said. And I believe I had a hearing

4 test also when I was there. I -- I'm not sure if it 5 was the first visit or the second visit, but I think

6 it was during that first visit with the audiologist.

Q Okay. Did he discuss with you any other possible contributing causes to your hearing loss such as age or something like that?

A Yeah, he had, I guess he asked me if I had lad any prior hearing problems, and I didn't. I didn't.

Q What did you tell him in that respect, that you'd never had your hearing tested before?

15 A I, I recall that I, I had had my hearing 16 tested once before. And to tell you the truth, it 17 was so many years ago that I couldn't remember

18 the -- who it was who did the testing. But to

19 the -- I have a -- two recollections, two specific

20 recollections, or three specific recollections about

21 the hearing test. One was it was a doctor in

22 Washington whose office was on K Street, and I

54

6

13

14

1 group?

A Yeah. The next -- I made an appointment, and I guess it was the next week I saw Doctor

Feldman, and he, he examined me and -- well, he

Feldman, and he, he examined me and — well, he examined me.

6 Q And what did he conclude, as you

7 understand it?

A As I understand it he basically said that it was, that I'd suffered a hearing loss as a result

10 of this loud noise, that the, I think he referred to

11 it as tinnitus, I think that's the word he used.

12 Tinnitus was this ringing sound I had in my ear, and

13 that the pain was, you know, might subside but that

14 it might not. In fact when people have a hearing

loss, it's not uncommon to be sensitive to sounds
 and for it to hurt. He said that it -- he couldn't

17 know for sure it was going to be a permanent hearing

18 loss. Sometimes people did bounce back and they

19 recover their hearing and this would go away, and

20 other times not. And it really depends if there was

permanent nerve damage as I recall, neural nerve
 damage or not, and he prescribed some prednisone.

1 believe it was in conjunction with an extended head

2 cold that I was having and I was having trouble

3 hearing. And he sat me down and checked me and put

4 some earphones on me and he did these little beeps

5 that they do in the earphones.

Q Right.

7 A I was not in a separate sound chamber. I

8 remember he did it in the chair. I'm guessing this

9 is fifteen years ago or so, and there was no

10 indication of any problem. He checked a number of

things, and that was the end of it, and I don't think I ever saw that person again.

13 Q Do you remember the diagnosis of that

14 doctor? Was it some sort of congestion in the ear

15 canal that was giving you problems?

16 A That's my recollection. It's kind of

vague. I know that there was no - whatever the
 issue was, it had nothing to do with hearing. It

19 was really a, probably just the congestion issue.

20 And I never had occasion to really follow-up or

check my hearing again after that.
 Q Had you had a congestion problem over

O Did you get a hearing aid at that point,

15 (Pages 57 to 60)

57 59 time? Is that something --1 or --2 A Not really, no. 2 A Not at that point, but thereafter I got a 3 Q Do you have any family history of -- are 3 hearing aid. I tried one hearing aid, I don't your parents still living? recall the type of hearing aid. It was a very high-5 A My mother, my mother is alive, my father 5 tech, digital hearing aid, and it was -- the cure 6 is not. was worse than the disease. I mean it was really 7 Q Do you have any history of hearing loss in 7 horrendous in terms of just, I guess I've gotten an 8 your family that you know of? education on the, on hearing aids but it's a 9 A Well, my mother's hearing is fine. The -complicated business trying to find the right 10 in the last year of my father's life he was, he 10 hearing aid, and some people never do. And was -- he died about twenty years ago. And in the 11 11 basically the problem with the initial hearing aid 12 last year of his life, he had lost his kidneys, he 12 was that it amplified internal sounds, like chewing 13 was on dialysis, and he had gout and just a, a 13 and other internal sounds to a great degree and also 14 variety of horrendous, ultimately fatal ailments. 14 amplified a lot of ambient noise. So I was getting 15 And the only thing I remember is sometimes he would 15 a lot of constant noise, so you really couldn't even 16 at that point turn the television up a bit. I think hear yourself think at times, which made it in terms 17 frankly he was, the dialysis at that time was just 17 of just emotionally, just hearing noise constantly 18 very different than it is today. It was very 18 is disrupting, agitating, but it also frequently traumatizing. And I -- that's about the closest I 19 actually interfered and made hearing worse than 20 can come to anybody with a hearing problem. 20 better. So I returned that hearing aid. 21 Q How old was he at the time? 21 Q So you're not wearing any --22 A 59. 22 A I'm wearing a hearing aid now actually. 58 60 Q 59? 1 1 You are? 2 A Uh-huh. 2 Yes. I went to another audiologist, 3 Q Okay. So you saw Doctor Feldman. Did he 3 Doctor Israel. I wanted to get another opinion, was offer you any treatment at that point after your there anything I could do? This is a bit later. He 5 first --5 was, he basically had -- he tested me, and I don't 6 A Doctor Feldman? recall the dates but he had tested me, had the same 7 O Doctor Feldman, yeah. 7 diagnosis. I explained the problem I had with 8 A He prescribed prednisone. 8 prior, the prior hearing aid and he suggested, he 9 said that he -- given the nature of my hearing loss, Q Aside from the prednisone? 10 A No, he suggested prednisone. He suggested 10 it might be difficult finding something that, that 11 that I be aware, that I be very careful about 11 met all my needs, but he suggested a hearing aid 12 exposing myself to loud noise situations, suggested 12 that at least would amplify forward for people 13 that I, you know, use earplugs, those cushioned 13 speaking to me so I would have somewhat -- and I 14 earplugs when appropriate, as I recall. But beyond 14 could use it as I needed it, so I didn't have to 15 that, I think the indication he gave was that if it 15 wear it all the time. And I have, I still have that 16 was nerve damage, which is what he thought it might hearing aid. I use it occasionally. It's of some 17 be, there was no surgery or treatment or medication 17 help, but limited. 18 And then recently I decided to try again, 18 that could remedy that problem. The only 19 possibility was to get a hearing aid which would 19 and -- another hearing aid, and I'm wearing that 20 20 assist a little bit with the hearing, or assist to hearing aid now. And it's a little bit better, but 21 21 it's got a lot of the same problems. some extent with the hearing. 22 Q And is that one that helps you hear